

To: Community Representatives
From: John T. Burklow, Acting Director
Office of Community Liaison
National Institutes of Health (NIH)
Date: October 2005

NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY LIAISON

Now that summer is over and we are moving into the fall and winter months, many of you may be looking forward to open windows and cool fall breezes. As the trees begin to shed their leaves, the NIH campus noise may be more evident. The building noise emanating from the west part of the campus is an ongoing challenge for the NIH and the surrounding neighborhoods. NIH officials recognize that the noise is a problem for the surrounding community, and we are taking action to correct it.



John T. Burklow

Once concerned community members notified the NIH about the noise, we began the task of identifying the source and seeking solutions. After a thorough campus review, it was discovered that two buildings, the John Edward Porter Neuroscience Research Center, known as the Porter Building, and Building 37, were experiencing unexpected noise problems with the rooftop fan housings and exhaust systems. After identifying what was thought to be the source of the noise, mitigation efforts first began on the Porter Building and Building 37 in the summer of 2004 with the initiation of noise studies.

In late May of 2005, work was largely completed on the Porter Building, and mitigation efforts continued on Building 37. NIH engineers determined that the noise from Building 37 originated in the exhaust stacks. As a way to reduce the noise, NIH is retrofitting these stacks. This process requires some custom fabrication, and the entire project is expected to take four to five weeks (by the end of October 2005, depending on the weather). At the completion of the project, follow-up noise measurements will be taken to assess the effectiveness of the attenuation efforts.

In addition to adding attenuation features to Buildings 35 and 37, and measuring sound levels for effectiveness, NIH is also undertaking a comprehensive noise study of the campus. A work group will be formed to proceed with this study. The group will consist of NIH engineers, an independent expert acoustical engineering firm, and several Community Liaison Council members selected by the Council. The work group will provide background information, confirm or modify contractor assumptions related to the community, review the contractor's results and participate in discussions about what course of action to follow in addressing the noise concerns raised. This group will meet and begin its work in late October or early November of 2005.

We appreciate the concerns that the community has expressed about the impact of campus noise on the quality of life of our neighbors. We continue to work diligently to address this issue and welcome further feedback as we move forward. Please feel free to send any comments, suggestions or questions to Ms. Amy Blackburn at amyb@mail.nih.gov.

The Community Liaison Council will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, October 20, at 4 p.m.**, in the Visitor Information Center, first floor, Building 45 on the NIH campus.

NIH NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NIH Responds to Katrina

In the immediate aftermath of the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, NIH has poured out its own hurricane of support and assistance. The NIH immediately mobilized and, in collaboration with Duke University, sent a volunteer team to staff a 250-bed field hospital in Mississippi. This effort anticipated a need to care for victims of the hurricane, but as the situation evolved, the facility was not required; the team was called back. Those NIH staff members who are U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps officers remain in the field. The NIH Clinical Center also made 100 beds available in Bethesda to accept patients with specific needs, such as pediatric oncology, who had to be transferred from the hurricane zone. These beds similarly have not been required. As NIH Director Elias A. Zerhouni, M.D., explained it, "The intention was to build as much capacity as possible as quickly as possible and to remain flexible."

The NIH has also arranged for toll-free telephone consultation services for primary care providers and patients in the Katrina disaster zone in the following medical areas:

- Environmental/toxic concerns
- Infectious diseases and tropical/geographical medicine
- Ophthalmology
- Oral medicine
- Psychiatry
- Cardiac/pulmonary diseases
- Genetic diseases
- Pediatric endocrinology
- Pediatric metabolism
- Obstetrics/gynecology
- Adult endocrinology

Additionally, the National Library of Medicine's Specialized Information Services (SIS) Division has compiled a new Hurricane Katrina resource page at

<http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/hurricane.html>. The page includes toxic chemical and environmental health information resources for health workers and the interested public, along with a variety of links to information on chemicals that could be released as a result of the Katrina disaster and on environmental health concerns following the wind and flood damage. A link to WISER, the Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders (<http://wiser.nlm.nih.gov>), will allow first responders to download information on 400 toxic chemicals and hazardous materials to a Palm, Pocket PC, or laptop/desktop computer that uses Microsoft Windows. A link to TOXMAP (<http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov>) identifies facilities that use or transport significant amounts of toxic chemicals and lists the chemicals for each. Maps are included for the Katrina-affected states as well as for New Orleans, Biloxi and Gulfport.

Of special concern to NIH is the fate of ongoing extramural research in the affected areas. Accordingly, the Office of Extramural Research has announced detailed information on possible action to assist affected investigators and institutions. According to Zerhouni, "As soon as investigators and institutions are able to assess damage to their NIH-supported research programs, we will consider requests for administrative time extensions, including personnel costs, and for replacement of equipment, supplies and unique resources damaged or lost as a result of the storm."

Zerhouni expressed great pride in the NIH commitment: "None of this could have happened without the conscientious and dedicated work of our staff and our partners. I have always been proud to be director of NIH, but never more than at this time."

He added, "There has been an outpouring of generosity, compassion and commitment from NIH employees at all levels to do whatever we can to assist in the relief effort. We have an incredibly talented group of people here at NIH. We know this is going to be a long effort. I am particularly heartened by the wonderful offers of help from so many in our NIH family. I thank you all for your help and your concern. Our thoughts are with the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama."

You Can Help!

How to donate: Money and volunteers are desperately needed. For information on how you can help, go to the American Red Cross Web site (<http://www.redcross.org>). The Red Cross has projected a need of at least \$2 billion for the response to Hurricane Katrina, and untold additional expenses for Hurricane Rita. To date, they have raised \$854 million. Further information can be found at Montgomery County's Web site (<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov>), which links directly to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) list of charities that are providing emergency relief to victims.

Scam warning: FEMA has issued a telephone scam warning, and Montgomery County's Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) cautions residents about possible Internet and other hurricane victim donation scams. If you wish to help, be sure to donate to reputable, well-known charities. DCA offers the following advice when donating to relief organizations:

Before you give, check out the relief organization carefully. Organizations that solicit charitable donations in Maryland must be registered by the Maryland Secretary of State. The list of acceptable agencies is available at <http://www.sos.state.md.us> or at 1-800-825-4510.

Visit the FEMA Web site, which contains information on how you can help victims of Hurricane Katrina, including contact information for relief organizations assisting in the effort: <http://www.fema.gov>.

Report suspicious solicitations to DCA at 240-777-3636 or by e-mail to dhca_consumer@montgomerycountymd.gov.

NINR Director Patricia A. Grady Honored by Columbia University

National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) Director Patricia A. Grady, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN, has received Columbia University's Second Century Award for Excellence in Health Care and was honored at recent ceremonies in New York City. This award is made annually to reflect the school's commitment to a second century of educating nurses. Columbia University established the award at the



Source: NIH Record

Patricia A. Grady, Ph.D., R.N., FAAN

University Centennial celebrations in 1992. Mary O'Neil Munding, Dr.P.H., R.N., Dean of the School of Nursing and Centennial Professor of Health Policy, presented the award. In her presentation, Munding noted that during Grady's tenure as NINR director, "nursing research has flourished nationally."

The dramatic increase in funding for nursing research "is largely due to her extraordinary leadership within and among the various institutes." Munding concluded that Grady's "networking, her own significant research accomplishments in physiology, and her quiet, graceful, intelligent and influential presence in Washington have been a gift to our profession."

NINDS Launches Stroke-Awareness Resources

Stroke is the third leading cause of death in the United States and the leading cause of long-term disability; more than 700,000 people have a stroke each year. Nearly three-quarters of all strokes occur in people over the age of 65 years, and the risk of having a stroke doubles each decade after the age of 55. Stroke also affects minority populations disproportionately: Hispanics aged 35–64 years are 1.3 times as likely to have a stroke as whites in the same age group.

To aid in getting more information on stroke into the hands of affected populations, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) has added four new topics to the senior-friendly NIH Senior Health Web site (<http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov>). These include: **Act Quickly, Warning Signs and Risk Factors, What Happens During a Stroke and Treatment and Research.** And to reach the Hispanic population, NINDS has produced an educational video titled *Ataque cerebral: Conozca los síntomas y actúe a tiempo* ("Stroke: Know the symptoms and act in time").

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Knowing the signs and symptoms of stroke can aid in obtaining quick treatment, which can reduce long-term debilitating effects. As John R. Marler, M.D., associate director for clinical trials at NINDS, explained, "Stroke is an unmistakable event. Few other medical conditions come on so suddenly or are so noticeable to a bystander." Stroke risk factors include family history of stroke, high blood pressure, heart disease, high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity and smoking. Age, ethnicity and family history cannot be controlled, but medical help is available to lower the risks due to other factors.

"Many Hispanics do not know that they are at risk for stroke or that they can take steps to prevent the occurrence of stroke," said José Merino, M.D., staff clinician with the Section on Stroke Diagnostics and Therapeutics at NINDS. "They may not recognize the symptoms of stroke or know that they need to act quickly to get treatment."

The video is divided into three 5-minute segments: **Preventing Stroke**, including the true story of a stroke survivor and the lifestyle changes she made to prevent a second stroke; **Know the Signs**, with the story of a man whose wife recognized his symptoms and got speedy treatment intervention for him; and **Act in Time. Call 911**, the story of a stroke victim whose mother dialed 911 and who recovered fully because of the timely treatment she obtained.

A single free copy of this video is available by calling 1-800-352-9424 (toll-free) and asking for a Spanish-speaking information specialist. Senior-friendly information on stroke in English can be found at <http://www.nihseniorhealth.gov>.

Six Botanical Research Centers Co-Funded by NCCAM and ODS

A 2002 National Health Interview Survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 38.2 million American adults used non-vitamin, non-mineral, "natural" products, primarily botanicals, despite there being little or no evidence that they are effective or even safe. To increase the scientific base of knowledge about such products, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM) and the Office of Dietary



Chinese Saint John's-wort

Supplements (ODS), both part of NIH, are jointly funding six dietary supplement research centers.

"Given that millions of Americans are using natural products, these research centers are critical to helping us determine whether and by what mechanisms botanicals may serve as effective treatments or preventive approaches," said NCCAM Director Stephen E. Straus, M.D.

The six centers include:

- **Botanicals Research Center for Age Related Diseases**
Principal Investigator, Connie Weaver, Ph.D., Purdue University
- **Center for Botanical Dietary Supplements Research in Women's Health**
Principal Investigator, Norman Farnsworth, Ph.D., University of Illinois at Chicago
- **Botanical Research Center: Metabolic Syndrome**
Principal Investigator, William Cefalu, M.D., Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University

- **Center for Botanical Immunomodulators**
Co-Principal Investigators, Barrie Cassileth, Ph.D.,
and Philip Livingston, M.D.,
Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center
- **Center for Botanical Lipids**
Principal Investigator, Floyd Chilton, Ph.D.,
Wake Forest University
- **Botanical Supplements Research Center**
Principal Investigator, Diane Birt, Ph.D.,
Iowa State University

Each center has a different botanical focus, but all share in the overall mission of advancing the scientific knowledge of these natural products. ODS Director Paul Coates, Ph.D., explained that the centers “will fulfill the goal of this initiative, to foster interdisciplinary collaborative research, in order to identify potential health benefits and to develop a systematic evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of botanicals, particularly those available as dietary supplements.”

FAES Announces Concert Schedule

The Foundation for Advanced Education in the Sciences has announced the schedule for its 2005–2006 Chamber Music Series. All events are on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. and are held at the Landon School’s Mondzac Performing Arts Center, 6101 Wilson Lane, in Bethesda. The Chamber Music Series was initiated in 1968 and presents young performers and internationally renowned artists. Tickets for individual concerts may be purchased as early as two weeks before or at the door on the day of the performance. The price is \$22 for adults or \$10 for students. A season subscription costs \$200 (\$80 for students, fellows and postdocs) and includes all nine performances. For further information, visit <http://www.faes.org>; to purchase tickets or subscriptions, call 301-496-7976. The Series has a wonderful schedule of renowned performers and dazzling young artists of promise.

2005

October 2 Ignat Solzhenitysn, *piano*
October 16 Takacs Quartet
November 13 Belcea Quartet
December 11 Steven Osborne, *piano*

2006

January 8 Randall Scarlata, *baritone*
 Jeremy Denk, *piano*
January 22 Kuss Quartet
February 12 Arnoldo Cohen, *piano*
March 19 Jan Vogler, *cello*
 Louis Lortie, *piano*
April 9 Winner, Borciani International
 String Quartet Competition

NIH CALENDAR OF EVENTS*

October 3
NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *Tonic Inhibition in the Crosshairs of Hormones and Drugs* by Istvan Mody, Ph.D., UCLA School of Medicine, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit is available. For more information, call Peggy Rollins at 301-435-2232 or visit <http://neuroseries.info.nih.gov/schedule.asp>.

October 5
NIH Director’s Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Matching Services to Needs: The Importance of Health Services Research for Reducing Disparities* by Margarita Alegria, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

October 12
NIH Director’s Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Complex Genetics in the Human Brain: Lessons from COMT* (the G. Burroughs Mider Lecture) by Daniel R. Weinberger, M.D., Clinical Brain Disorders Branch, NIMH, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

October 13
NHGRI Division of Intramural Research Seminar Series: *Targeting Dystroglycan Function in Muscular Dystrophies* by Daniel E. Michele, Ph.D., University of Michigan, 11 a.m.–noon, Main Conference Room, ground floor, Building 50, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, contact Debbie Wilson at dwilson@nhgri.nih.gov or visit <http://www.genome.gov/10000480>.

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October 17
NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *Endocannabinoids in the Cerebellum: Multiple Mechanisms and Multiple Roles* by Wade Regehr, Ph.D., Harvard Medical School, noon–1 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Peggy Rollins at 301-435-2232 or visit <http://neuroseries.info.nih.gov/schedule.asp>.

Exploring the Mysteries of Actin and Myosin: A Symposium to Honor Edward D. Korn, Ph.D., 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. This all-day symposium will celebrate the scientific achievements of Dr. Korn's 50-year career with NHLBI, featuring 12 internationally recognized scientists who will present their state-of-the-art research. Pre-registration is requested. For more information or to register, visit <http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/meetings/korn.htm>.

October 18
Medicine for the Public Series: *Avian Influenza: Preparing for the Pandemic* by David Henderson, M.D., Clinical Center, NIH, 7 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/mfp.shtml>.

October 18–21
NIH Research Festival: The 2005 NIH Research Festival features a plenary session, poster sessions, special exhibits, symposia, a job fair for NIH postdoctoral, research and clinical fellows, Festival Food and Music Fair and Technical Sales Association (TSA) exhibits. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., 10/18 and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 10/19; the food fair and music festival are from noon–2 p.m., 10/18 and noon–2:30 p.m., 10/19; the job fair is from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., 10/20; the TSA exhibits are from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 10/20 and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 10/21. The Festival begins with a plenary session in Masur Auditorium, Building 10; other events are in the Natcher Conference Center; the food fair and music festival are in a tent outside the Natcher Cafeteria, NIH campus. All events are free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://researchfestival.nih.gov>.

October 24
NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *Mechanisms of Memory-Guided Behavior in the Prefrontal Cortex, Entorhinal Cortex and Hippocampus* by Michael Hasselmo, D.Phil., Boston University, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Peggy Rollins at 301-435-2232 or visit <http://neuroseries.info.nih.gov/schedule.asp>.

October 25
Medicine for the Public Series: *Open Wide: Molecular Medicine Enters the Mouth* by Lawrence A. Tabak, D.D.S., Ph.D., NIDCR, NIH, 7 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/mfp.shtml>.

October 26
NIH Director's Wednesday Afternoon Lecture Series: *Chemistry in Living Systems: New Tools for Probing the Glycome* (the DeWitt Stetten, Jr. Lecture) by Carolyn Bertozzi, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley, 3–4 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Hilda Madine at 301-594-5595 or visit <http://www1.od.nih.gov/wals/schedule.htm>.

October 27
NHGRI Division of Intramural Research Seminar Series: *Problems with Talking About Gene-Environment Interaction* by Celeste Condit, Ph.D., University of Georgia, 11 a.m.–noon, Main Conference Room, ground floor, Building 50, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, contact Debbie Wilson at dwilson@nhgri.nih.gov or visit <http://www.genome.gov/10000480>.

October 28
NCCAM Distinguished Lectures in the Science of Complementary and Alternative Medicine: *Is Spirituality Good for Your Health? Historical Reflections on an Emerging Research Enterprise* by Anne Harrington, Ph.D., Harvard University, 11 a.m.–noon, Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, visit <http://nccam.nih.gov/news/lectures/upcoming.htm>.

October 31
NIH Neuroscience Seminar Series: *What Rules Are the Architectural Principles Followed in Making a Brain Larger?* by Charles Stevens, Ph.D., The Salk Institute, noon–1 p.m., Lipsett Amphitheater, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. CME credit is available. For more information, call Peggy Rollins at 301-435-2232 or visit <http://neuroseries.info.nih.gov/schedule.asp>.

November 1
Medicine for the Public Series: *Growing Older: Challenges and Opportunities in Aging* by Richard J. Hodes, M.D., NIA, 7 p.m., Masur Auditorium, Building 10, NIH campus, free and open to the public. For more information, call 301-496-2563 or visit <http://www.cc.nih.gov/about/news/mfp.shtml>.

**Calendar items subject to change. Call to confirm your event.*

TRY THIS WEBSITE

<http://wecan.nhlbi.nih.gov>

We Can! (Ways to Enhance Children's Activity & Nutrition) is a new initiative launched by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute in cooperation with the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Cancer Institute. If you are like most parents today, you already know that trying to get your children to eat healthily, to exercise more and to reduce their television time is difficult at best. This Web site offers a wealth of information and resources for parents and caregivers of children aged 8–13 years, all aimed at helping them stay fit and at a healthy weight. You can download the *We Can!* parents' handbook, access a community toolkit to help you involve your whole town, find a variety of tips and activities and follow links to other sites filled with health information. With 16 percent of children in the United States now overweight and with potentially lifelong health consequences for many of them, *We Can!* offers real help today.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Help Build Better Vaccines for a Healthier World

Researchers with the Vaccine Research Center, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at NIH, seek healthy volunteers aged 18–50 years to participate in the study of an investigational vaccine for West Nile Virus. Participants will be compensated. For more information or to volunteer, call 1-866-833-LIFE or TTY: 1-866-411-1010; refer to study number 05-I-0126.

Uterine Fibroids Treatment Study

NIH researchers invite women aged 33–50 who have been diagnosed with uterine fibroids and who are willing to undergo a hysterectomy to participate in this study. Participants will receive medication (CDB-2914) or a placebo (non-active sugar pill) for 3 months prior to a hysterectomy. To find out if you qualify, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010. Se habla español.

Healthy Volunteers Needed for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Research

Researchers with the National Institute of Mental Health are looking for healthy children between the ages of 6 and 18 to participate in studies of mood and anxiety disorders. Participation may include a physical exam, lab work, brain imaging and/or psychological interviews. Compensation is provided. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010; refer to protocol number 01-M-0192.

Adult Volunteers Needed

The NIH seeks volunteers aged 18–65 who are employed and able to complete a health and employment benefits research survey. Participants will be compensated. For more information or to participate, call 240-353-7238 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010.

Tell Us Your Rheumatoid Arthritis Story

If you are 18 years of age or older and have been diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis, the NIH invites you to participate in a medical research study. All tests are provided at no cost, and you will be compensated. For more information, call 1-800-411-1222 or TTY: 1-866-411-1010; refer to study number 01-AR-0170.



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If you would like to list an upcoming event of interest to the local community, call Terry Taylor at Palladian Partners, OCL support contractor, at 301-650-8660, or send him an e-mail at ttaylor@palladianpartners.com.